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### **New Lyme Disease Test / Farm Brewery / Rolling Road**

- [New Lyme Disease Test](#)- a new method of testing for Lyme disease developed at George Mason University allows for early detection for disease in humans and pets will be available soon.
- [Farm Brewery in Clifton](#)- an application has been made to the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for the first farm brewery in Fairfax County.
- [Rolling Road Widening Update](#)- Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) allocated \$5 million in regional funding to get the Rolling Road widening project rolling again.

### **New Lyme Disease Test**

As many of you know the issue of Lyme disease and increasing awareness and testing for this disease is something that I have worked to bring to the forefront while I have served on the Board of Supervisors.

In 2010, I brought Temple Douglas, a student of Thomas Jefferson High School at the time, before the Board in recognition of her efforts to develop a better Lyme test. Temple had seen the issues with blood based tests which have to wait for antibodies to be present to detect the disease.

Building on Temple's work, Dr. Emanuel Petricoin, a University Professor and Co-Director at the Center of Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine in the School of Systems Biology at George Mason University, and his partners have been working to further the success of this project. If successful, this new test method could help the residents of Fairfax County and our neighbor Loudoun County, the two jurisdictions in Virginia with the highest number of Lyme cases, as well as millions of Americans in the Lyme infested areas of the North East, the upper Midwest, and areas of California. Such a breakthrough would be historic in the fight against Lyme.

That is why I am happy to let you know that the George Mason University Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine together with Ceres Nanosciences, a local Virginia company, will begin rolling out a new method of testing for Lyme disease. This new testing method uses the patient's urine to see if they are positive for Lyme disease at a very early stage, which allows the patient to fight the disease early on. In clinical trials this test has achieved a sensitivity of virtually 100 percent for early stage Lyme disease and has shown a reversal from positive to negative, if the patient was successfully treated for the disease. Current tests are inaccurate during the early onset of the disease.

This is a truly remarkable achievement for our region and when more information becomes available I will be sure to make it known to the public. I have high hopes this will be an important step in fighting this horrible disease.

### **Farm Breweries**

Recently, an application was made to the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for the first farm brewery in Fairfax County. The farm brewery is proposed to be located on approximately 20 acres of land zoned to the Residential-Conservation (RC) District, located at the corner of Yates Ford and Clifton Road in the Clifton community. Last year the General Assembly passed (almost unanimously) and the Governor signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 430, known as the Farm Brewery Bill, with an effective date of July 1, 2014. This bill created a new limited brewery license for breweries that limits local regulation of farm breweries,

similar to the farm winery bill that was passed by the Virginia Legislature and signed into law in 2006. You can read the approved law (*Virginia Code* § 15.2-2288.3:1) here:

<https://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+15.2-2288.3C1>

In response to this Farm Brewery proposal, a number of citizens in the Clifton community have expressed concerns regarding the proposed brewery, ranging from whether the use is permitted in the R-C District to environmental issues with regard to water usage, water quality, and septic controls, to other land use impacts such as traffic, noise and frequency of events which may impact the surrounding properties. It appears that the Farm Brewery would be deemed an agriculture use under our Zoning Ordinance, and agriculture is a permitted use in the R-C District as well as other zoning districts available in several of our magisterial districts. In light of this legislation and the concerns expressed by members of the Clifton community in response to the proposed farm brewery, I have directed the County Executive to prepare a memo for the Board on currently available and potential regulatory options to address farm breweries. Farm breweries have also been added to the agenda for the next Development Process Committee meeting.

Within the authority provided by state law, I will work with County staff, residents and the landowners to protect the sensitive Occoquan Watershed which is the source of much of our drinking water and home to many County residents.

### **Rolling Road Widening Project: Update**

Last week, after Delegate Dave Albo's and my request for reconsideration, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) allocated \$5 million in regional funding to the Rolling Road widening project. Despite VDOT ranking the Rolling Road widening project number two on a [prioritized list of significant local projects based on congestion mitigation](#), initially the NVTA inexplicably opted against funding the project at all. Though the \$5 million amount was requested to potentially get the project through the right of way phase, this does not mean that land or easements will be taken any time in the immediate future. It will be part of a local match for \$10 M Revenue Sharing money that the county hopes will soon be awarded by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. As I noted previously in the Herrity Report, design still needs to be redone (for the fourth time!) Per VDOT, Traffic Counts have been collected and are being analyzed with surveying being completed by early summer. The project's schedule is currently under review.

Delegate Albo and I will continue to work with VDOT to refine the project to ensure landowners are impacted as little as possible. I will keep you updated in future editions of this newsletter as information becomes available.